U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092-EA

October 2021

Rebuilding the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail Amending ROW UTU-91920

Location: Mill Canyon, Grand County, Utah
T. 24 S., R. 20 E., Section 17

Applicant/Address: Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Moab Field Office
82 E. Dogwood
Moab, Utah 84532
Phone: 435-259-2100

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office proposes to rebuild a popular paleontological attraction, the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail. In 2009, a dinosaur tracksite in the Mill Canyon area was reported to the BLM. The designated road which bisected the site was closed to the public to protect the tracksite (DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2010-0212-EA: *Non-Designation of Route near Mill Canyon*). Shortly thereafter, a range fence was erected around the tracksite to further protect the tracks (DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2011-0163-CX: *Range Exclosure near Mill Canyon*).

In 2013, the University of Colorado and BLM paleontologists mapped the tracksite using photogrammetry; over 200 individual tracks from at least ten species of dinosaur were recorded. (The project was authorized under DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2013-0132-EA: *Paleontological Excavation – Mill Canyon Tracksite*). The Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite was found to be Lower Cretaceous in age (approximately 112 million years ago) and is the largest and most diverse tracksite known in the Cedar Mountain Formation. Collaborative research efforts indicate that the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite is one of the most significant early Cretaceous tracksites in the world.

After completion of the scientific studies, the BLM made the decision to interpret the tracksite for the public. In July of 2014, a Decision Record was signed designating the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail for public use (DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2014-0110-EA: *Designation of the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail*). The trail was built in 2015, using a raised wooden boardwalk so that the tracks themselves could be seen, but would not be at risk of being stepped on. Visitors were provided with ample interpretation; a walk on the boardwalk allowed visitors to look down at the dinosaur tracks without causing damage to the tracks themselves.

The Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail is very popular with the public, especially those with children. It is easy to access, as it is located only two miles from U.S. Highway 191 (about 15 miles north of Moab, Utah). The original wooden boardwalk construction has not proven to be durable and is not able to withstand the elements nor the parade of visitors to the site. As a result of its popularity, the Moab BLM has decided to replace the wooden boardwalk trail with a similar design made of concrete and metal (to be called a "walkway" in this document). This new facility would provide increased safety for visitors as well as be more durable.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose for the Proposed Action is to provide an improved and more durable walking trail so that the public can see and enjoy a very important paleontological resource. The trail would ensure that the public would not walk directly on the tracks and would also improve safety (the wooden boardwalk is warping and presents a serious trip hazard).

The need is established by the BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to manage lands in a sustainable fashion. The number of people seeking to visit the tracksite and the elements to which the trail is exposed dictate the need for a more durable raised walkway. The amendment of ROW 91920 to include the walkway would protect the public's investment in this recreation infrastructure.

The decision to be made is whether or not to rebuild the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and whether or not to amend the ROW to include the Tracksite Trail.

CONFORMANCE WITH BLM LAND USE PLAN(S)
This action is in conformance with the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is specifically provided for in the following decisions:

REC-39 (page 90) established the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) as a Destination SRMA. While the Tracksite was not yet discovered at the time of the RMP, decisions in that RMP call for managing the nearby Mill Canyon Dinosaur Interpretive Trail as a facility (that trail provides interpretation of dinosaur bones *in situ*). The Tracksite trail can be considered a companion facility to the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Interpretative Trail; the two are usually visited together.

PAL-3 (page 79): Locate, evaluate, and protect significant paleontological resources. Provide for public visitation and education opportunities while simultaneously protecting and supporting the scientific and research value of paleontological resources.

RELATIONSHIPS TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PLANS
The Proposed Action is consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which includes the following strategy: "Strategy E - Maintain and enhance the recreational, scenic, and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity" (page 39).

CHAPTER 2
DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

INTRODUCTION
This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the Proposed and No Action alternatives. The No Action alternative is considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison of the impacts of the Proposed Action.

PROPOSED ACTION
The BLM proposes to rebuild the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail as follows. The wooden boardwalk, wooden supports, and railings which constitute the current trail would be removed. The supports for the new raised walkway would be constructed using metal supports. The metal supports would be placed in the same locations as the wooden supports, although fewer metal supports would be required due to the greater strength of the material. The six-foot-wide raised walkway would be composed of corrugated metal, which may be covered with a thin concrete layer to create the walking surface. Exposed concrete may be colored to match the surrounding landscape and patterns may be etched

into the walkway for traction. The current railings would be replaced with aluminum railings on the new walkway to encourage people to stay on the walkway and to not set foot on the tracksite below. The new walkway would remain at the same location as the older wooden boardwalk. All materials would be laid by hand and any welding would be done on site. A diagram of the proposed construction is included in Appendix B.

The exposed trackway proximate to walkway construction would be marked and flagged for avoidance. A BLM representative would conduct onsite inspections during the construction to ensure that no tracks would be impacted.

The dirt walking route from the parking area to the raised walkway would be improved so that it is more user-friendly and accessible. If funding allows, the access route from the parking area to the newly reconstructed walkway could be made accessible to those who have physical challenges.

To access the construction site, a welding truck, a materials truck, a concrete truck and a pump truck would travel on an existing, but non-designated route for a distance of approximately 500 feet from the designated road to the walkway. These vehicles would then be available for the purposes of construction. At the conclusion of the project, the vehicle tracks would be rehabilitated such that they were no longer visible to the average visitor. A map in Appendix B shows the vehicle access route to the construction site, as well as the path of the walking trail from the public parking area.

The construction is proposed for November, when visitation is relatively low.

In 2016, the BLM issued ROW UTU-91920 to itself for the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trailhead. This action would amend that ROW to include the trail/walkway as well as the trailhead.

NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative would be to not rebuild the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and not to amend the right-of-way to include the Tracksite Trail.

CHAPTER 3
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SETTING

The affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives were considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist, Appendix A. The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis.

Two resources, Paleontology and Recreation, would be impacted to a level requiring further analyses; they are described in Chapter 3 and impacts are analyzed in Chapter 4 below.

Paleontology
The exposed formation at the Tracksite location has a fossil classification of PFYC 4 – PFYC 5. The fossil tracks exposed at this location are a unique paleontological resource, which was extensively studied in 2013.

Recreation
The Tracksite is within the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), which is managed as a Destination SRMA. The existing Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail (wooden boardwalk) is enjoyed by thousands of people each year. Interpretation is offered at the site via extensive interpretive signing, and visitors are allowed to walk on the elevated boardwalk above the dinosaur tracks. This elevation affords an excellent view of the dinosaur tracks, while protecting the tracksite from visitors. The facility has received many accolades from around the world.

Recently, the BLM has received complaints from visitors that the boards are warping and creating a trip hazard. BLM engineers have confirmed that the facility is in need of repair.

CHAPTER 4
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS
PROPOSED ACTION
This section analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action to those resources described in the Affected Environment, Chapter 3, above.

Paleontology
Reconstruction of the walkway has the potential to disturb existing paleontological resources. Conditions of approval (marking and flagging of the tracks close to the construction site and the requirement for onsite inspections during construction) have been imposed to safeguard the paleontological resource.

Improving the tracksite allows the public to share in this rare paleontological resource.

Recreation
Rebuilding the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail by hardening the trail materials (concrete and metal vs. wooden boards and supports) would extend the longevity of the tracksite trail. In addition, the newly maintained trail would eliminate the trip hazards that the existing wooden boardwalk trail presents. Currently, visitors often have to tread carefully to avoid the warped boards. This means that they cannot pay full attention to the dinosaur tracks themselves or to the interpretation provided at the tracksite.

While there would be short term and temporary impacts to the trail atmosphere from the trucks and other construction equipment required to effect the project, this temporary impact would result in a more permanent and safe trail for visitors. Performing the work

in November would mean that a relatively small number of visitors would be affected by the construction activities (which could make the tracksite unavailable to visitors for a short period of time). Rehabilitating and obscuring the tire tracks made by the construction vehicles would restore the site to its original state. Recreationists, especially those with an interest in paleontology (which includes the vast majority of children) would benefit from the rebuilding of the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail.

NO ACTION

The No Action alternative does not meet the need for the Proposed Action, which is to rebuild the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and to protect the government's investment in the trail by amending the ROW for the trailhead to include the trail.

Paleontology

There would be no risk to the trackway from construction activities. However, as the existing boardwalk continued to deteriorate, visitors might stray from the boardwalk down on to the tracksite. This unintended consequence could result in damage to the trackway, as once visitors were down on the tracks themselves, they might continue to stray along the rock formation and damage the tracksite by stepping on the 112 million year old tracks.

Recreation

The existing wooden boardwalk would continue to deteriorate. The boardwalk would warp more severely, and the trip hazard presented by the trail would worsen and continue to provide an unsafe situation. Visitors would be required to step carefully, rather than stroll with impunity to enjoy the dinosaur tracks and the interpretation provided for this stunning and unique paleontological resource. The recreation experience would be diminished for visitors, especially for children who have a deep interest in paleontology.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. There is no further development foreseen in the project area. The cumulative impacts of the proposed action are minimal and will not be analyzed further.

CHAPTER 5
PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During preparation of the EA, the public was notified of the Proposed Action and EA by posting on the ePlanning website on July 28, 2021. No responses were received as a result of this posting.

Table 5.1. List of BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Nate Huber	Natural Resource Specialist	Air Quality
Pam Riddle	Wildlife Biologist	T and E Animals, Migratory Birds, BLM Sensitive Species, Fish and Wildlife, T and E Plants
Charlie Fischer	Fuels Specialist	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds, Fuels

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Aaron Vollmer	Range Management Specialist	Soils, Woodlands/Forestry, Grazing, Rangeland Health Standards, Vegetation
Gabe Bissonette	Range Management Specialist	Floodplains, Wetlands
Bill Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Natural Areas, Wilderness/WSA, Socioeconomics, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Environmental Justice, Wild and Scenic Rivers
Lori Hunsaker	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Katie Stevens	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACECs, Recreation, Visual Resources, Team Lead
Mike Morningstar	Realty Specialist	Lands/Access
Jennifer Whittington	Geologist	Geology, Wastes, Water Resources, Paleontology
Malachi Baker	BLM Engineering Tech	Project design

Appendices and Attachments

Appendix A: Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record Checklist
Appendix B: Diagram of Proposed Tracksite Trail Improvements

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Rebuilding the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail/Amending ROW 91920 to include the Tracksite Trail

NEPA Log Number: DOI BLM UT Y010-2021-0092 EA

Project Leader: Katie Stevens

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: ***(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)***

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA
The following elements are not present in the Moab Field Office and have been removed from the checklist: Farmlands (Prime or Unique), Wild Horses and Burros.

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Not expected to impact air quality	Nate Huber	7/29/21
NP	Floodplains	There are no floodplains within the project area based on personal knowledge and aerial imagery analysis.	Gabe Bissonette	7/29/21
NI	Soils	The proposed work is temporary, and work will occur within the same walkway footprint	Aaron Vollmer	8/3/21
NI	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	The proposed work is not expected to negatively impact surface or groundwater resources. The walkway will use existing footprint and will not impact existing surface drainage.	Jennifer Whittington	7/29/21
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	There are no riparian zones within the project area. See 2008 RMP.	Gabe Bissonette	7/29/21
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	See 2008 RMP	Katie Stevens	7/28/21
PI	Recreation	Would improve safety and durability on a very popular facility	Katie Stevens	7/28/21
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	See 2008 RMP	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NI	Visual Resources	New walkway would replace existing wooden walkway. No additional impacts to Visual Resources	Katie Stevens	7/28/21
NP	BLM Natural Areas	See 2008 RMP	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NI	Socio-Economics	Minimal impact relative to overall economy of planning area	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NP	Wilderness/WSA	See 2008 RMP	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NP	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	See 2008 RMP and 2016 Moab MLP	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NP	Cultural Resources	There is currently an existing walkway at track site, but a survey of the proposed construction access and staging area was completed on October 1, 2021. A report will be submitted under the Small-Scale PA in March of 2022 (U21BL0769).	Lori Hunsaker	10/4/21

NP	Native American Religious Concerns	There is an existing walkway at the track site. The proposed work would not change access to religious or traditional properties, nor would it additionally affect any traditional or religious areas.	Lori Hunsaker	10/4/21
NP	Environmental Justice	No EJ populations identified in planning area. See https://headwaterseconomics.org/apps/economic-profile-system/49019	Bill Stevens	7/28/21
NP	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No solid or hazardous wastes are present or expected to be generated during, or as a result of, the proposed action. Any waste generated during the project construction, including equipment fluid/oil/grease spills and trash, should be cleaned up, collected, and hauled to a proper disposal site or landfill.	Jennifer Whittington	7/29/8/21
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species		Pam Riddle	8/3/21
NI	Migratory Birds	No new surface disturbance or new activities. Proposed project will occur in the existing footprint of existing walkway, therefore migratory birds & raptors will not be affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required	Pam Riddle	8/3/21
NI	Utah BLM Sensitive Species	No new surface disturbance or new activities. Proposed project will occur in the existing footprint of existing walkway; therefore, Sensitive Species will not be affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required	Pam Riddle	8/3/21
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	No new surface disturbance or new activities. Proposed project will occur in the existing footprint of existing walkway; therefore, local wildlife will not be affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required	Pam Riddle	8/3/21
NI	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds		Charlie Fischer	7/28/21
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species		Pam Riddle	8/3/21
NP	Livestock Grazing		Aaron Vollmer	8/3/21
NP	Rangeland Health Standards		Aaron Vollmer	8/3/21
NP	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species		Aaron Vollmer	8/3/21
NP	Woodland / Forestry		Aaron Vollmer	8/3/21
NP	Fuels/Fire Management		Charles Fischer	7/29/21
NP	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The project area is withdrawn from mineral entry and is excluded from energy exploration and production.	Jennifer Whittington	7/29/21
NP	Lands/Access	Will amend UTU-.91920 to add ROW for trail.	Mike Morningstar	7/28/21
PI	Paleontology	The exposed formation at this site the surface has a fossil classification of PFYC 4-PFYC 5, and construction of the walkway has the potential to disturb existing paleontological resources. Exposed trackway close to the walkway construction must be	Jennifer Whittington	8/2/21

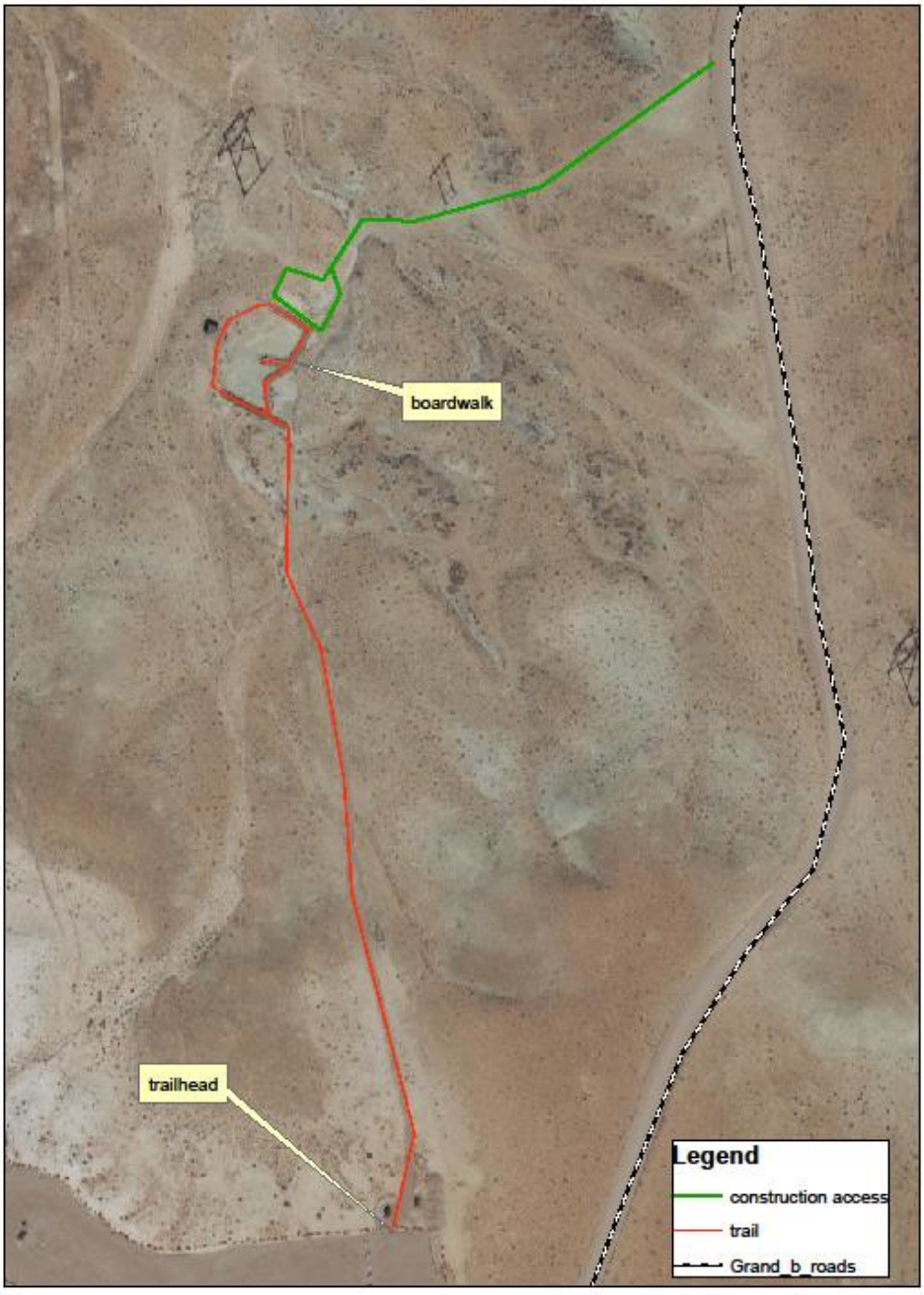
		marked/flagged for avoidance. A BLM representative will conduct onsite inspections during the construction.		

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	JILL STEPHENSON Digitally signed by JILL STEPHENSON Date: 2021.10.12 11:37:05 -06'00'		
Authorized Officer	NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT Digitally signed by NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT Date: 2021.10.12 13:06:09 -06'00'		(FM)

Appendix B: Diagram of Proposed Action (note: all land in the view is BLM-managed land)

Rebuilding the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record
Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092 EA

October 2021

Rebuilding the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite Trail Amending ROW UTU-91920

Location: Mill Canyon, Grand County, Utah
T. 24 S., R. 20 E., Section 17

Applicant/Address: Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Moab Field Office
82 East Dogwood
Moab, UT 84532
435-259-2100
435-259-2106

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092-EA

INTRODUCTION:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA), DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092-EA, for a Proposed Action to rebuild the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and to amend ROW-91920 for the Tracksite Trailhead to include the area of the trail itself. The project is described in the EA referenced above. The underlying need for the proposal would be met while improving recreation opportunities for the general public.

The project area is within the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The EA (DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092) is attached, and is incorporated by reference for this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A No Action alternative and the Proposed Action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context: The project is a site-specific action directly involving no more than 5,000 square feet on BLM administered land that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse**. The Proposed Action would impact resources as described in the EA. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the 2008 Moab RMP/FEIS. Beneficial impacts to recreation users are analyzed within the EA.

2. **The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety**. The Proposed Action provides an improved tracksite walkway, enabling the users to see dinosaur tracks *in situ* in a safe manner. The project is intended to improve safety of the visitors.

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild**

and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. The historic and cultural resources of the area have been inventoried and no cultural resources were found In addition, mitigation measures will be undertaken to reduce the impacts of past actions. The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Fuels, Wetlands, Floodplains, BLM Natural Areas, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Wilderness/WSA, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Environmental Justice, Threatened and Endangered Animal Species, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species, Wastes, Lands/Access, Livestock Grazing, RHS, Vegetation, Woodlands, and Geology. In addition, the following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues, although present, would not be affected by this Proposed Action for the reasons listed in Appendix A of the EA: Air Quality, Soils, Visual Resources, Migratory Birds, Fish and Wildlife, Utah BLM Sensitive Species, Invasive Plants, Water Resources, and Socioeconomics. Two resources, Recreation and Paleontology, are analyzed in the document.

4. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial**. There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.

5. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks**. The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The actions considered in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.

7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts – which include connected actions regardless of land ownership.** The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 4 of the EA.

8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.** The project will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of

significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. A cultural inventory has been completed for the Proposed Action, and no cultural resources were found.

9. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or the degree to which the action may adversely affect: 1) a proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or its habitat, or 2) a species on BLM's sensitive species list**. Habitats would incur no new impacts as the trail is currently in use by the public.

10. **Whether the action threatens a violation of a federal, state, local, or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.** The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT Digitally signed by NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT
Date: 2021.10.12 13:06:50 -06'00'

Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, Moab Field Manager Date

DECISION RECORD
DOI BLM UT Y010 2021-0092 EA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA), DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2021-0092-EA, for the rebuilding of the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and the inclusion of the trail in ROW-91920 granted to BLM for the Trailhead in the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Two alternatives were analyzed for their environmental impacts (Proposed Action and No Action).

It is my decision to approve the Proposed Action, which authorizes the rebuilding of the Mill Canyon Tracksite Trail and the amendment of the ROW. The EA is attached to this Decision Record.

Authorities: The authority for this decision is in 43 CFR 8360 – Visitor Services.

Compliance and Monitoring: A BLM representative will conduct onsite inspections during reconstruction to protect paleontological resources.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY:

The Proposed Action has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan (RMP) and specifically provided for in the following decisions:

REC-39 (page 90) established the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges SRMA as a destination SRMA. While the Tracksite was not yet discovered at the time of the RMP, decision in the RMP call for managing the nearby Mill Canyon Dinosaur Interpretive Trail as a facility (that trail provides interpretation of dinosaur bones *in situ*). The Tracksite Trail can be considered a companion facility to the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Interpretive Trail; the two are usually visited together.

PAL-3 (page 79): Locate, evaluate, and protect significant paleontological resources. Provide for public visitation and education opportunities while simultaneously protecting and supporting the scientific and research value of paleontological resources.

The Proposed Action is also consistent with the Grand County General Plan (2012), which calls for "maintaining and enhancing the recreational, scenic and cultural amenities unique to Grand County to attract and sustain economic activity" (page 39). The Grand County General Plan recognizes that the public lands of Grand County are the foundation of the county's economic prosperity because of the reliance of Grand County on tourist revenue.

Rationale for Decision: The Proposed Action meets the purpose and need for the project by rebuilding a popular recreation facility. There are no significant impacts to any resources located near the project area.

The public was notified of the Proposed Action by posting on the ePlanning website on July 28, 2021. No comments were received.

Protest/Appeal Language:

The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on the date that it is posed on ePlanning. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at Moab Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b)), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT Digitally signed by NICOLLEE GADDIS-WYATT Date: 2021.10.12 13:07:27 -06'00'

Nicollee Gaddis-Wyatt, Moab Field Manager Date